

## Claims

1. Method for driving display means having a predefined display area comprising the steps of  
5 providing a video signal for displaying a video image being smaller than said display area, so that one or more unused display sections remain on the display area, and driving said one or more unused display sections with at least one predetermined signal, wherein said at least  
10 one predetermined signal is varied in accordance with said video signal.
2. Method according to claim 1 wherein said unused sections include sidebars.  
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3. Method according to claim 1 wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed on the basis of one or more analysing areas within said display area.
- 20 4. Method according to claim 3 wherein said one or more analysing areas directly abuts on said one or more unused areas.
- 25 5. Method according to claim 1 wherein said at least one predetermined signal is computed by evaluating a histogram of brightness values of one of said analysing areas.
- 30 6. Method according to claim 5 wherein said at least one predetermined signal is determined by applying a threshold to said histogram in order to obtain a significant part of the histogram and taking a medium brightness of said significant part for said at least one predetermined signal.
- 35 7. Method according to claim 5 wherein the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal is limited to a

maximum brightness below the maximum practical brightness of luminous elements of said display means.

8. Method according to claim 5 wherein the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal is corrected by a predetermined factor.

9. Device for driving display means having a predefined display area comprising:

determining means for determining one or more unused display sections remaining on the display area when driving said display means with a predetermined video signal and

driving means connected to said determining means for driving said one or more unused display sections with at least one predetermined signal, wherein said at least one predetermined signal is variable in accordance with said video signal.

10. Device according to claim 9 wherein said unused sections include sidebars.

11. Device according to claim 9 further including analysing means connected to said driving means for analysing one or more analysing areas within said display area to compute said at least one predetermined signal.

12. Device according to claim 11 wherein said one or more analysing areas directly abut on said one or more unused areas.

13. Device according to claim 11 wherein said analysing means is capable of forming a histogram of brightness values of one of said analysing areas for computing said at

least one predetermined signal.

14. Device according to claim 13 wherein said analysing means is capable of applying a threshold to said histogram in order to obtain a significant part of the histogram and taking a medium brightness of said significant part for said at least one predetermined signal.

15. Device according to claim 9 wherein said driving means is capable of limiting the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal to a maximum brightness below the maximum practical brightness of the luminous elements of said display means.

16. Device according to claim 9 wherein said driving means is capable of correcting the brightness of said at least one predetermined signal by a predetermined factor.